

"He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day." On any other day of the week, if we passed by the carpenter's shop in Nazareth, we would hear the strokes of the axe, the tapping of the mallet, or the rasping of the saw. We would find Jesus there. But if we called at that shop on the seventh day, we would find the door closed, the shutters drawn, the tools hanging neatly in their places, the timber all stacked away, and no sign of the Carpenter. If it was the hour of public worship, we would find Him in the house of God. At other times we might find Him at the bedside of some sufferer, or in a quiet grove reading the Scriptures and communing with His Father.

At the beginning of this lesson, we set out to discover God's thoughts about the Sabbath, and the Scriptures have now led us into the presence of Jesus. His lifelong example of reverence and obedience is the clearest possible revelation of the mind of God concerning the Sabbath!

If Jesus were here today, would He still teach and practise according to His lifelong custom?

Heb. 13 : 8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever."

THE EIGHTH PILLAR — Luke 23 : 54-56

"The Sabbath according to the commandment." This passage establishes beyond all question the true position of the Sabbath in relation to the other days of the week. The Bible Sabbath corresponds with our Saturday. We can establish this by comparing Luke's record with our modern calendar, especially in connection with the observance of Easter.

"That day was the preparation." This was the crucifixion day, the day before the Sabbath, corresponding with the modern sixth day, or "Good Friday".

"The Sabbath drew on." This was the seventh day, during which the disciples rested, and Jesus lay lifeless in the tomb. We now call this day "Easter Saturday".

"The First day of the week" (Luke 24 : 1). This was the day after the Sabbath and corresponds with "Easter Sunday".

THE NINTH PILLAR — Acts 16 : 13

This incident in the ministry of Paul occurred about A.D. 52, twenty years after the resurrection of our Lord. The Sabbath is still given its original, sacred title. There is no hint that the mind of God has changed by a hair's-breadth concerning the Sabbath; or that the original Sabbath has been abolished; or that Paul and his companions knew of any other weekly day of rest for Christians, apart from the seventh day.

THE TENTH PILLAR — Isa. 66 : 22, 23

"From one Sabbath to another." The Sabbath greeted us first in Eden lost. It greets us now in Eden restored. There is no hint anywhere in the Bible that the passing of centuries has made the slightest change in the thoughts of God towards the Sabbath. Nor is there any suggestion that the passage of time should make any change in the minds of His people towards His Holy Day. Honoured and loved in Eden of old; trampled underfoot and forgotten by a rebellious world, the Sabbath will at last come into its own again in the earth made new. There it will fulfil the purpose for which God intended it, as if sin had never been.

"All flesh." The world to come will not be divided on the Sabbath question. There will be no discord or confusion there. "All flesh" will honour the Sabbath of God's appointment. If we are planning to keep the Sabbath there, is it not reasonable that we should begin to keep it here?